

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-JANUARY 23, 2006

Mayor Betsy Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:32 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair (arrived at 8:05 p.m.), Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding (arrived at 7:35 p.m.), and Schaefer.

Absent: Koehn (out of the state)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved, and Mr. Haddad seconded to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2006 meeting. Mayor Paterson noted that Jeffrey Smith, the Director of Finance, was also in attendance at the January meeting of the Eastern Connecticut Regional Finance Group.

The motion to approve the minutes as corrected passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in remembrance of all our men and women serving in the military at home and overseas.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Howard Raphaelson, 119 Timber Drive, expressed his interest in an appointment to the Recreation Advisory Committee. Howard has been attending meeting for the last year, but is currently unable to vote. He asked for the support of the Council.

Ruth Moynihan, 37 Farrell Road, addressed the Council regarding the issue of the name of the Post Office. Ms. Moynihan prefers the Storrs designation, noting that Storrs Mansfield is difficult to write. She urged the Council to resist the temptation to support a change to Mansfield.

Michael Taylor, 12 Stonemill Road, urged the Council to support the skate park, saying that we owe it to our children to provide a place for them to actively congregate. He noted that members of the community have offered to contribute both materials and services to the project.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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1. Natchaug River Greenway Designation

Mr. Clouette resolved and Mr. Haddad seconded, resolved, effective January 23, 2006, to authorize Mayor Elizabeth Paterson to issue the attached resolution endorsing Mansfield's participation in the nomination of the Natchaug River Corridor as a state greenway.

Motion so passed.

2. Energy Conservation

Mr. Hawkins questioned whether or not our current utility company, Select Energy, has any energy consultant assistance available. The Staff will investigate.

3. Skate Park Proposal

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Haddad seconded, effective January 23, 2006, to transfer \$115,000 from the capital non-recurring account to the capital improvements fund to fund the construction of a skate park and various capital improvements at the Mansfield Community Center.

Mr. Paulhus commented that since the skate park and the capital improvements are two distinct issues and the agenda just referenced the skate park that it might be better to separate the motion.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to separate the \$40,000 from the rest of the \$115,000 for capital improvements at the Community Center.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded, effective January 23, 2006, to transfer \$40,000 from the capital non-recurring account to the capital improvements fund to fund the construction of a skate park at the Mansfield Community Center.

Motion so passed

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded, effective January 23, 2006, to transfer \$75,000 from the capital non-recurring account to the capital improvements fund to fund various capital improvements at the Mansfield Community Center.

Curt Vincente, Director of Recreation, outlined the projects that the funding would support and Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, verified the expenditure as consistent with the capital-spending plan.

Motion so passed.

4. Fenton River

Informational material only.

5. Campus/Community Relations

Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager, updated the Town Council on the proposed housing code. He is meeting with the Town Attorney this week and will present

the code to the Town Council in the near future. He noted that there are budgetary implications. Mr. Haddad asked that an exemption for owner occupied dwelling be considered.

Mr. Hart and the Town Manager have prepared a draft action plan, which incorporates all of the recommendations from the Council's Committee on Community Quality of Life. They are in the process of reviewing this action plan with University personnel.

Mayor Paterson and the Assistant Town Manager recently met with Dr. Julie Bell Elkins, a University representative to the Community Campus Partnership, and have scheduled meetings for the first Friday of the month, at least for this semester. The Mayor explained the origin of the 4 sub-committees that have been established.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

6. Appointment of Subregistrars for Vital Statistics

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective January 23, 2006 to appoint Mr. Paul Cichon and Mr. John Fortin Jr. to serve subregisters for vital statistics for the Town of Mansfield, to serve a term concurrent with that of Town Clerk Mary L Stanton.

Motion so passed.

7. Capital Projects Fund

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective January 23, 2006, to adopt the adjustments to the capital projects fund, as recommended by the Director of Finance in his correspondence dated January 17, 2006.

Motion so passed.

Mr. Schaefer moved to add the appointment of members to the Recreation Advisory Committee to the agenda at the appropriate time. Seconded by Mr. Haddad the motion passed.

8. "Wisdom Works: Building Better Communities"

Mr. Hawkins resolved, and Mr. Clouette seconded, effective January 23, 2006, that the Town Manager, Martin Berliner, is empowered to submit a letter of interest to the "Wisdom Works: Building Better Communities" grant program, and to enter into and amend any subsequent contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Town of Mansfield, with the National Council on Aging, and to affix the corporate seal of the Town.

Motion so passed.

9. Security Measures at Bergin Correctional Institute

Mr. Paulhus moved, and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective January 23, 2006, to accept the Connecticut Department of Correction's proposal to install at Bergin Correctional Institute two rolls of razor ribbon on the ground along the interior perimeter of the existing fence, specifically a double row of wire consisting of two 30" rolls with 24" rolls inside the 30" rolls, as recommended by the Mansfield Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Haddad asked if Mr. Paulhus, the Council's Representative to the Committee, would characterize the concerns of the two members who were in opposition. Mr. Paulhus enumerated their objections as inmate safety, appearance and the possibility of the prison going up to a Level 3 status. He observed that escapes have increased rather dramatically in the last two years. The Mayor noted that Department of Corrections Commissioner, Theresa Lang, stated in her letter that there is no intention of a change to the security level or the staffing level of the facility. Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager, stated that the town has an agreement with the State of Connecticut that stipulates that we are to be Level 2 or lower and no one who has been convicted of a sexual offence may be incarcerated there. This agreement would need to be modified.

Motion so passed.

10. Storrs Center Project, Parking and Traffic Consultancy

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective January 23, 2006, to authorize staff to spend up to \$50,000 from the capital non-recurring account to purchase consulting services necessary to evaluate parking and traffic issues at the Storrs Center project.

Motion so passed

- 10a. Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective January 23, 2006, to appoint Howard Raphaelson and Frank Musiek to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

An extensive discussion of the problems of maintaining the Committee database, the need to centralize the letters of interest and the possibility of creating an on-line system ensued. Matt Hart, the Assistant Town Manager, was asked to examine the situation and report back with recommendations.

Motion to appoint passed.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

None

VIII. REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Hawkins reported that the Special Committee Regarding the Establishment of a Charter Revision Committee has received 7 letters from citizens interested in serving on the Committee. He noted that the announcement was just released and urged

Council members to encourage people to apply. The Committee has requested that the staff put together a list of items that they would like to see added to the charge. Mr. Haddad reiterated the need for a variety of people to participate noting that the Committee has plenty of time to appoint Charter Revision members still allowing for a full year for the Committee to do its work.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Paulhus reported that he, the Mayor and Social Service Director Kevin Grunwald attended the reopening of the MacDonald's at which time the organization gave a donation to the Mansfield Special Needs Fund.

X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager, revealed that the town is very close to its goal of 100 participants in the Clean Energy Project. There are currently 93 participants enrolled. A group of Mansfield Middle School students have created a flier to urge citizens to sign up. He commended their efforts.

Mr. Hart announced that the email notification system (META), which the Council had requested is up and running. Citizens who subscribe will automatically receive press announcements, agendas, minutes, and other items of interest.

The annual Town Council financial retreat will be held on Saturday February 11th at a location to be announced.

The market feasibility study for assisted living will be distributed to members as soon as it is received and a presentation will be made at the second meeting in February.

The meeting with State Legislators has been scheduled for February 13th.

The next Town Gown meeting will be February 14th.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

None

XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. Town of Mansfield Ambulance Services Analysis - Mr. Hawkins questioned the fluctuation in the dollar figures for 03/04 and 04/05 given the number of calls reported. Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, explained that there is a lag in the reporting of the numbers and that it is difficult to match up time periods. He did note that Dave Dagon, Fire Chief, carefully reviews all these bills every quarter.

12. Mansfield Board of Education, FY 2006/07 Budget in Brief

13. G. Padick re: Plan of Conservation and Development Update

14. Proposed Revisions to Article III of the Zoning Regulations

15. W. Stauder re: Annual Report for 2005

16. CCM Municipal Management Bulletin, " No New Voting Machines Required in

2006”

17. Main Street Navigator, “Main Street is SMART Growth”

18. Chronicle, Housing Makes Good Sense

- XIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 8:50 p.m. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn the meeting
Motion so passed.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk